



INFORMATION FACT SHEET ON PRIVATE DONATIONS

- The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services may accept gifts (in cash or in kind, including voluntary and uncompensated services) to be used in carrying out the duties of the White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) pursuant to Title II of the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2000, 42 U.S.C. § 3001.
- The Secretary has delegated authority to carry out the functions of the WHCoA to the Assistant Secretary for Aging. Gifts must be entirely voluntary.
- Gifts may be unconditional, for example, "to the WHCoA to fulfill its purpose," or conditional, for example, "to the WHCoA to support [a particular function or activity]".
- The WHCoA is not a private charitable organization, but, as an agency of the United States, gifts made to the WHCoA without limitation or for any of its public purposes, are tax deductible as charitable contributions under section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (Internal Revenue Code). Potential donors should, however, consult with their tax advisors.
- The decision whether or not to accept any gift is a discretionary administrative decision, based upon program needs and public policy considerations.
- Most gifts are accepted when they will be beneficial to the WHCoA, so long as any conditions of the gift are not illegal, contrary to public policy, or burdensome, and the gift will not create a real or apparent conflict of interest, as could occur when a gift is offered by an organization with which the WHCoA or the AoA has financial dealings.
- For additional information on receipt and acceptance of gifts, please contact Scott Nystrom, Executive Director of the White House Conference on Aging at 301-443-2511.